



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Friday, February 29, 2008 – 08-004
District: District 2 - Redding
Contact: Michael Mayor
Phone: (530) 225-3214

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Caltrans will be out in force on March 4, 2007

Don't Trash California

REDDING – The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 2 will join the other eleven districts and our Adopt-a-Highway volunteers on Tuesday March 4, 2008 for an all out litter clean-up day.

Last year, the Department of Transportation alone spent more than \$62 million picking up and disposing of 244,637 cubic yards of litter and debris along California highways. The projected annual cost to all public agencies in California for litter prevention, clean up and disposal is close to \$400 million.

“It’s a problem that’s getting worse every year and people need to take responsibility.” said District Director, Brian Crane, “Just covering and securing loads in pickups and trailers will make a huge difference.”

Annually in District 2, along with the help of Adopt-A-Highway volunteers, Caltrans clears more than 31,000 bags of trash from the 1,750 miles of roadway we maintain. Put into perspective, that is more than 21 dump trucks of litter and debris per week at a cost of \$300,481.

Aside from the cost to remove it, litter effects the environment. Highway litter gets into storm drains. Storm water carries it to rivers and lakes where it can release toxins, poisoning marine life and posing health risks for humans.

Facts at a Glance:

- The number one litter item found along highways is cigarette butts.
- In California, it is a misdemeanor to throw anything from a moving vehicle. The penalty for littering is a \$1,000 fine.

--more--

- The Adopt-A-Highway program was established in 1989. There are currently more than 4,100 participating volunteer and sponsor groups, providing the Department and taxpayers with services valued at over \$15 Million each year.
- 335 volunteer groups in District 2 picked up 1,603 bags in 2007

You can make a difference by carrying a trash bag in your car. Make it a habit and dispose of it properly. If you smoke, use the ashtray and empty it every time you stop for gas. Do not leave items in the bed of a pickup. Loose trash can easily fly out at high speeds. If hauling items in an open trailer or truck bed make sure, everything is securely tied down and covered.

One of the best ways to help is to become an Adopt-A-Highway volunteer. For more information on Adopt-A-Highway visit <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/adopt-a-highway.htm> or to find an available adoption site, contact Saedra Wederbrook at 530-225-3277.

Caltrans wants to remind you that when you see someone picking up litter on the side of the road, slow down as if it were a Cone Zone.

To report littering or improperly tarped trucks, call 1-800-TellCHP (1-800-835-5247).

###

NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://caltrans2.info/roadinfo.htm>



